



The Public Service Commission State of South Carolina

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June 19, 2018

Mr. David G. Forbes

Columbia, South Carolina 29229-3397

Dear Mr. Forbes:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest/Comments to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letter of Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File (Public Comments) of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at www.psc.sc.gov.

- Docket No. 2017-228-S - Application of Palmetto Utilities, Incorporated for Adjustment of Rates and Charges for Customers in the Palmetto Utilities and Palmetto of Richland County Service Areas

You can follow this Docket and other daily filings made at the Commission by subscribing to the Commission's Email Subscriptions at this link: <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Email>; or you can also follow Docket No. 2017-228-S at this link: <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Dockets/Detail/116386>.

If we may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah Easterling".

Deborah Easterling
Executive Assistant

c: Parties of Record

Road
Columbia, SC 29229-3397
June 14, 2018

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Suite 100
101 Executive Center Drive
Columbia, SC 29210

Dear Reader:

Since my utility bill with Palmetto Utilities has increased a whopping 43% since March, 2018 and 58% since 2013, I could not let this adjustment pass without comment.

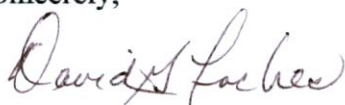
In 2017, Palmetto Utilities sent correspondence to its customers about a merger with another utility. It informed us that one of the benefits of the merger would be cost savings (e.g. - see attached presentation sheet used by Palmetto Utilities). I was not naïve enough to believe that this cost savings would be reflected in my utility bill fortunately. Of course when they sent this letter, it did not describe project proposals, already being developed, that would be brought before the PSC for a huge rate increase. How convenient!

When consumers are hit with huge rate increases such as this one, your agency is acting in the best interest of the utility; not the consumer. Palmetto Utilities wanted to deceive the consumers into believing this merger would be in our best financial interest, instead of their own best financial interest.

One should not be surprised with the poor performance of your agency in a regulatory role given your complicity with the SCANA scandal that the PSC fully endorsed all along the way!

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint.

Sincerely,



David G. Forbes

(over)

RECEIVED

JUN 18 2018

**PSC SC
MAIL / DMS**

Service Update

- Long term owner and operator, long term investor, job creator
- Customer Service Team
 - Handle 3,000 calls/month
 - Average call pick-up in 8 seconds
 - A number of months in last 18 months with no dropped calls
- Call Center Upgrades
 - On-line bill payment added
 - Office lobby bill-pay kiosk being added
- **Merger of Palmetto of Richland Counties and Palmetto Utilities – cost savings long term**



Current Sewer Rates as of March 15, 2018 for Basic Residential Service

COMPANY	BASIC FACILITIES CHARGE	PER 1,000 GALLONS	DATE ORDER APPROVED
Carolina Water Service, Inc. f/k/a United Utility Companies, Inc. f/k/a Utilities Services of S.C., Inc.*	\$57.58	\$0.00	2015
Condor Environmental, Inc.	See PSC Order	\$0.00	2000
CUC, Inc.	\$45.54	\$5.10	2015
Daufuskie Island Utility Co., Inc.	Haig Point - \$201.65/qtr Melrose - \$201.05/qtr	Haig Point - \$2.14 Melrose - \$2.14	2018
Goat Isl. Water & Sewer Co. Inc.	\$30.00	\$0.00	2008
Guerin Creek W/Water Utility Inc	\$1.00	\$0.00	2016
Harbor Island Utilities, Inc.	\$59.24	\$0.00	2017
JACABB Utilities, Inc.	Varies from \$30.50 to \$82.82	\$0.00	2011
Kiawah Island Utilities, Inc.	\$26.20	\$0.69	2017
Lakewood Utilities, LLC	\$5.50	\$1.25	2010
Lake Wylie MHP Utilities, LLC f/k/a Lake Wylie Community Utilities, Inc.	\$27.00	\$0.00	2005
Moore Sewer	\$20.88	\$0.00	2003
Ocean Lakes Utilities, Inc.	\$3.27	\$3.10	2015
Palmetto Utilities, Inc. f/k/a Palmetto of Richland County, LLC**	\$52.10	\$0.00	2018
Palmetto Wastewater Reclamation, LLC. d/b/a Alpine Utilities and Woodlands Utilities, Inc.	\$34.50	\$0.00	2014
QH Lagoon, LLC f/k/a Threatt Enterprises, Inc.***	\$35.00	\$0.00	2014
Scenic Lake Park WWTP	\$30.00	\$0.00	2003
Synergy Utilities, LP f/k/a Development Services, Inc. and Midlands Utility, Inc.****	\$35.87/\$37.90	\$0.00	2015/2005
T. J. Barnwell Utility, Inc.	\$53.00	\$0.00	2016
Total Environmental Solutions. Inc.	\$40.22	\$0.00	2008

*PSC Order 2014-399 approved the merger of United Utility Company, Inc., Utilities Services of S.C., Inc., and Carolina Water Service, Inc. to form one entity known as Carolina Water Service, Inc.

**PSC Order 2017-433 approved the merger of Palmetto of Richland County, LLC and Palmetto Utilities, Inc.

***PSC Order 2015-865 approved the transfer of assets of Threatt Enterprise, Inc. to QH Lagoon, LLC

****PSC Order 2017-49 approved the merger of Development Services Inc and Midlands Utility Inc.